

Issue: Funding for Brucellosis Action Plan – FWP

APPENDIX E: Participation by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MT FWP)

A) It will be critical to the success of this Brucellosis Action Plan to have active participation by MT FWP in assisting MDOL and livestock producers in attempting to maintain temporal and spatial separation between cattle and GYA-associated elk. (MT FWP is already a cooperating partner regarding YNP bison management – jointly implementing Interagency Bison Management Plan). MT FWP should submit proposed solutions to brucellosis-related issues identified in risk evaluations or Herd Plans within Area 1, upon the request of MDOL or livestock producers. In order to assist in the risk mitigation actions included in a risk evaluation or Herd Plan, MT FWP participation should include:

- 1) Providing personnel to haze/assist in hazing of elk in close proximity to cattle feeding/calving areas.
 - a) Especially in Area 1 – highest priority.
 - b) Especially during the period of January 15 thru June 15.
- 2) Providing personnel and game-proof fencing materials for fencing haystacks/feed storage areas/cattle feeding areas.
 - a) Especially in Area 1 – highest priority.
- 3) Providing personnel or other resources for additional mitigation efforts to ensure separation between elk and cattle or elk and cattle feeding/calving areas.
 - a) Especially in Area 1 – highest priority.
 - b) Especially during the period of January 15 thru June 15.

B) It will also be critical for MT FWP to work cooperatively with livestock producers (and vice versa) to improve and sustain elk brucellosis surveillance efforts, especially in Area 1.

C) It will also be critical for MT FWP to continue elk brucellosis surveillance efforts long-term in Area 1 and to enhance long-term statewide elk brucellosis surveillance efforts.

The involvement of FWP was not requested in the supplemental funding bill or the executive budget. The options for funding this activity include:

- Appropriating general license funds to FWP for specific activities of the BAP related to the management of elk
- Adjusting the price of a resident or nonresident elk license to include a small surcharge to fund FWP participation in the BAP. This would require statute change which could be done in the companion bill and authority to be appropriated to FWP
- Appropriating general fund to FWP for specific activities of the BAP related to the management of elk and requesting the Long Range Building Program to not approve any additional general fund for continued activities under Access Montana or direct them to revert an equal amount of GF capital authority